(a) whether software and service exports from India has registered a 3.5 per cent growth during the last fiscal;

(b) whether this is the highest growth since 2001 to touch $17.2 billion;

(c) whether total software and service revenues grew 32 per cent to $22 billion in 2004-05;

(d) whether according to a survey, the total value of outsourcing to India ($ 17.2 billion in 2004-05) is estimated to be 44 per cent worldwide total;

(e) whether the survey also pointed out that pricing trends in BPO are likely to be susceptible to downward pressure; and

(f) if so, to what extent software exports will give further rise during 2005-06?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) As per the annual survey of NASSCOM, the Indian IT-ITES (IT Software & Services and IT Enabled Services-BPO) industry has recorded 34.5% growth in exports, clocking revenues of US $17.2 billion in FY 2004-05, as compared with export revenues of US $12.8 billion in 2003-04.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir.

(f) As per this survey, NASSCOM has projected that the India IT-ITES exports are likely to grow by 30-32% during 2005-06 clocking revenues of about US$ 22.5 billion.

Provision of telephone and internet connections to the villages

1132. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has prepared a plan to connect all 6,00,000 plus villages by telephone within two years;

(b) if so, whether it will boost 250 million lines;

(c) if so, the total amount involved in achieving this objective;

(d) whether in addition some 180-200 million of phones would be mobiles;

(e) whether number of internet communication is also expected to be more than triple to 18 million from 5.45 million over the same period; and

(f) the efforts being made to complete work on this project and whether Government are planning to monitor work so that the target is achieved by 2007?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. 5,29,377 villages have been provided with VPTs as on 30-06-2005. Remaining 57,071 villages will be provided VPTs by November, 2007 with support from Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund. This excludes villages lying in thick forest, having less than 100 population etc.

(b) The goal of providing VPTs is to provide public access to all the villages in the country by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL). The target of 250 million lines is for individual connections from all the Telecom Operators. The VPT connections will be counted towards this target.

(c) Estimated support from USO Fund of VPTs will be around Rs. 451 crore.

(d) It is expected that of the 250 million telephone connections by the year 2007, around 180-200 millions are expected to be mobile phones.

(e) Yes, Sir. Broadband policy 2004 envisages 18 million Internet subscribers by the year 2007.

(f) The progress of installation of VPTs in 66,822 unconnected villages is being closely monitored as a component of "Bharat Nirman". The progress on targets of 250 million individual connections by the year 2007 is also being reviewed periodically.

Spectrum distribution

1133. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state: